

Liberation

339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012

A Letter from LIBERATION's Editorial Collective.

Dear Friend,

Perhaps you've been looking for an explanation of what's happening to New York and our other cities that doesn't sound like a computer print-out, a massive conspiracy, or nothing to worry about. While the *Daily News* and *Time* portray it as a battle between city bureaucrats and federal politicians, too many other "in-depth" analyses bury the truth in a mound of statistics and charts.

What's needed is a probing look at the crisis in our cities—now and for the future—which puts people first. And which considers all sides of the problem—not just money and politics, but the feelings and expressions of everyday people.

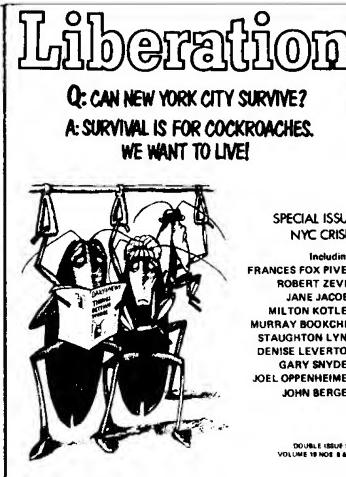
If this is what you're looking for LIBERATION's special 140-page double issue on the city crisis will answer your questions and more: (for sample quotations, see inside)

- * What caused the crisis? The economic, political and bureaucratic mumblings and fumblings which led to the disaster are analysed in two detailed, expert articles.
- * Who's hurting and how? The heart of the problem: housing, crime, the schools, the unions. Writers with direct experience in each area provide detailed explanations of the effects of the crisis.
- * What can be done? Who's doing it? People's answers have included rent strikes, increased radical activity, neighborhood government, cost-cutting lifestyle experiments—and more questions. Writers and participants discuss their successes and failures, and make suggestions for future action.
- * What does it feel and look like? The poetry and art, dreams and nightmares of city life are an integral part of our concern. Poets like **Gary Snyder**, **Denise Levertov**, **Philip Lopate**, **Joel Oppenheimer** and **Jim Moore**, speak as artists and human beings—with passion, humor, perception and depth. Graphic artists and photographers add their visions to produce a magazine that is as rich to look at as it is to read.

Why LIBERATION? How are we different from the other magazines you read, or have given up on? Before speaking for ourselves, we suggest you look on the inside at what others have said about us. We've won the support of people like **Mary McCarthy**, **Noam Chomsky**, **Susan Sontag** and **Dan Ellsberg**, by being unique. While we are proud to carry articles by writers such as these, we are even more concerned to publish the unheard voices of people whose ideas would otherwise not appear in print.

Our approach is radical, which means we talk about people's lives and are not arrogant about it; we talk about changing the world, but don't claim to have all the answers. In each issue, we combine the personal and analytical, cultural and political.

(Please turn to the back page.)



STAT

Highlights from LIBERATION's "City Crisis" issue—yours FREE if you subscribe!



"Love New York Day was a conglomeration of New York politics, of disconnection, but also of possibility. Their traditions and institutions are crumbling, but in the vacuum this creates it is not clear that their loss will be our gain." —Paul Loeb

"Survival is for cockroaches—we want to live!" —Love N.Y. Day Rally



"Death for a city is not physical destruction as before Carthage or Hiroshima. It is the loss of those things which define a city's vitality, the culture and ferment, material pleasures and comforts, exploration and invention, growth of old activities and creation of new ones which serve as positive attractions for immigrants and produce a flow of ideas and products for export. If these are vital signs, New York is moribund, encrusted with decaying, old West Side Highways and decadent, new World Trade Centers." —Robert Zevin, "Taking Care of Business"

The tenant strike of 60,000 residents of Co-op City: "Hundreds—thousands—of people in Co-op City now know each other who never knew each other before, and have begun to watch out for each other."



"This crap about a wage freeze for city workers—I didn't see the politicians taking any cuts and freezing their salaries and their little rake-offs and their little side deals that nobody even knows about till they're already out of office...."

"I don't think a lot of people realize how much garbage you put on that truck. The average guy puts between five and six tons on that truck. Twice a day. That's a hell of a lot of garbage!" —Talking Trashman Blues

"No amount of police can enforce civilization where the normal, casual enforcement of it has broken down." —Jane Jacobs, "Sidewalks, Crime and Community"

What Some of Our Readers Write About LIBERATION

"Liberation has consistently provided thoughtful and challenging analyses of the central problems of our society, from the point of view of the libertarian left. It has been a remarkably open and honest journal, willing to face the hard and important problems...." —Noam Chomsky

"...a shrewd, urgent, brave and human voice of the movement." —Susan Sontag

"Liberation is always a pleasure to me because I can't predict to myself what I'll find there. It's a genuine forum—a discussion center for like-minded people who nevertheless disagree among themselves—the only one I know of in America." —Mary McCarthy

"Liberation is one of the very few journals I believe deserves wide readership, combining the sort of humane values and realistic analysis that can help us find a way out." —Daniel Elaberg

"The 'State Connection' article in Vol. 19, No. 6 was excellent! It's the first time I had seen anything approaching analysis of the issues in the Boston busing situation. It demystified things. There has been so much liberal rhetoric and sentimentalism. Liberation once again breaks out of the nonsense." —a reader in Bronx, N.Y.

"Every time Liberation arrives I feel better connected to the processes that keep my going. My heart squeezes the blood through the arteries with greater confidence that life needs a chance." —a reader in Pacifica, Calif.

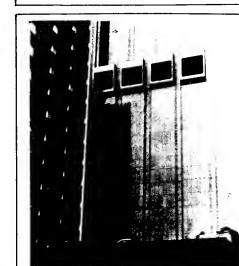
"...When I went to Washington, I found my CIA article (Vol. 19, No. 3) on every desk I visited." —Fred Landis, author of "Psychological Warfare in Chile: The CIA Makes Headlines"

"There were so many articles in the recent issue that looked factual reality in its seamy face and saw real meaning. I'll look at every issue very closely. Keep writing, you people..." —a reader in Pittman, N.J.

"Within the history of capitalism, Manhattan is the island reserved for those who are damned because they hoped excessively." —John Berger, "Inside/Outside New York"

"What's happening to cities should help radicals understand why Reagan and Wallace are so popular." —Staughton Lynd

"In the place of class-oriented politics, we have politics based on individual, ethnic and neighborhood-oriented patronage. As a consequence, American political leaders, including municipal leaders, have been free to attack the working class while still winning the working class vote." —Frances Fox Piven Talks About New York



"Architectural machismo confronts and affronts us continuously. The 20th-Century urban skyscraper, the pinnacle of patriarchal symbology, is rooted in the masculine mystique of the big, erect and forceful; the full balloon of the inflated masculine ego. Each building competes for individual recognition and domination in this schema, while the value of human identity is impoverished." —Phyllis Birkby, Leslie Weisman, "Patriotecture"



"When I was a child growing up in New York City, many things about that place were more friendly. Central Park was then wholly unthreatening. My father and I used to bicycle around the park before breakfast, counting the squirrels. Nor was night time in the park scary. I recall, as a teenager, spending a whole night in the Park once, swimming with a girl in the lake near the Metropolitan Museum as the dawn came." —Staughton Lynd, "Thoughts on New York"

"New York's loss of municipal self-administration to the central government could portend a far-reaching destruction of municipal institutions everywhere." —Murray Bookchin, "Urban Possibilities"

A city teacher's lament: "It wasn't just the peeling vomit green paint, falling plaster, the incessant bells and time-clock, nor even the police presence, endless regulations and bathroom passes that affected me. All of that was around when I was in high school. Something more insidious was at work. Insidious? No, explicit—direct orders to maintain martial law; instructions that I was not to teach science content but instead inspire students to want low level technical jobs; an acknowledgement that many of them are the enemy."



"Because the city no longer covers for landlords' neglect, tenants have no recourse but to stand up for themselves. The number of rent strikes throughout the city has increased steadily since Emergency Repair Program became ineffective, and will continue to grow...." —Meg Charlop, "Housing in Crisis"

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Enclosed is my check for \$18 for a 2-year subscription (22 issues). Please send me, free, the City Crisis double issue, and David Dellinger's book. Start my sub with your next issue.

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Write me about bulk rates for the "City Crisis" issue.

(Letter from the Collective, continued....)

Take for example our issue for July and August 1975, in which we combined these features:

- * *MacBird* author **Barbara Garson's** "Tuna Fish"—a personal account of the daily experiences of cannery workers in Astoria, Oregon.
- * an in-depth review of *Detroit: I Do Mind Dying*, a book about Detroit organizing efforts during the late '60s.
- * a special, 20-page report from Portugal—at a time when readers searched in vain for accurate, sympathetic coverage of the popular power movement, we published first-hand accounts of what people were doing, and a letter from ex-CIA man Philip Agee warning of covert U.S. intervention there.
- * an exclusive conversation with Agee, discussing his experiences inside and outside of the CIA.
- * a report from Chile since the coup, told by MIR leader Manuel Cabiese Donoso, his wife and children.
- * a thoughtful discussion about the politics of housework.
- * **Wendell Berry's** "The Culture of Agriculture", and a study of dairy farming in the United States.
- * poems by Tuli Kupferberg, France Burke and Ronald Block.
- * seven pages of lively dialogue with our readers.

In all modesty, we can say confidently that no other magazine in the United States covers such a variety of topics with such depth. We take the trouble to do it not because we make money at it, but because it's important to us. We are continuing a tradition which began in 1956, with articles by **Martin Luther King, Jr., A.J. Muste and Paul Goodman**. LIBERATION has been a unique voice for these visionaries and others following their moral and intellectual path ever since. Past writers have included **Bertrand Russell, Erich Fromm, James Baldwin and I.F. Stone**. Current writers include **Grace Paley, Noam Chomsky, Allen Ginsberg, Michelle Russell**—and of course, many more.

We think you will find that LIBERATION makes a difference in your life. That's why we want you to subscribe. To encourage you to do it now, we will send you—**FREE**—the current 120-page double issue (a \$2 value), and start your subscription with our next issue.

Please note: We are so confident that you will like LIBERATION, that if at any time you decide to cancel your subscription, we will refund your entire subscription fee. Please use the enclosed order form and envelope to send us your subscription today.

Sincerely,

Paul Loeb
for the LIBERATION Collective

P.S.

You may be interested to read a book-length statement of the LIBERATION philosophy, told in terms of the experiences of the '60s and '70s. If so, we'll send you a **FREE** copy of the important new book by LIBERATION founder David Dellinger, *More Power Than We Know*, in return for a two-year subscription. Please use the enclosed order form.

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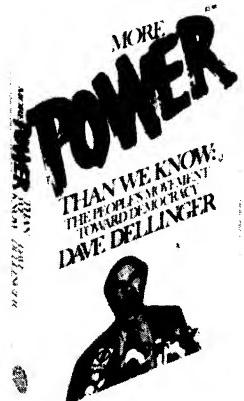
Write me about bulletins for the "Citizen" _____

"For those who are interested in the truth, Dave Dellinger's book is essential reading.... When he writes about American society, he keeps to the harder and more significant truths that the media are careful to avoid."

—Noam Chomsky

"This is not for a moment the autobiography of a single individual. It is a chapter of the biography of a country and of its grievous society.... The history of this era has not been told before in its entirety and so methodically...."

*—Kay Boyle,
Pacific Sun*



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